Saint Antony's Manual

ST. ANTONY'S DEPARTMENT
Mt St. Sepulchre, Washington, D. C.

IMPRIMATUR

✠ MICHAEL AUGUSTINE

Archbishop of New York.

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Introduction

NO Catholic can ignore the wonderful wave of devotion which a few years ago began to sweep over the Catholic world. Moved by the spirit of God all eyes turned as if by inspiration to St. Antony, all roads led to his shrine. And even our Holy Father gave expression to this public sentiment when he said to a great admirer of St. Antony: "My son, it is not enough to love St. An-

tony, but you must make him loved, for St. Antony is the saint not of Padua only, but of the whole world."

These words of our holy Pontiff, winged as they seem to have been with prophecy, are daily receiving increased confirmation. Throughout the Church St. Antony's name appears to be assuming the character of a watchword; it has a charm that fascinates all pious souls. The Saint in Italy, the good father in France, homely Antony in Germany, the lieutenant-colonel in the Portuguese and Brazilian armies, a bread-winner for the poor, the consoler of the afflicted, St. Antony is the cosmopolitan personality who has won the cult of the day.

The Lord has given to him, so to say, a second, though invisible, existence, sending him again to the world with the message of the seraphic gospel

which is to regenerate all peoples. It is the message of love to and confidence in God, simplicity in manners, purity of heart, charity to the poor and apostolic zeal towards our neighbor.

Personal Appearance of St. Antony.

Our Saint is thus described by a contemporary writer: "Antony was, like a genuine Portuguese, of very dark complexion. He was of medium height, and of delicate appearance. His features were youthful, almost boyish, yet they bore the trace of a quiet earnestness. The forehead was broad; his piercing intellect was revealed in his looks; his nose was rather long, and his lips ruby. His whole outward appearance bore the mark of gentleness and benevolence, and all, even those who were unacquainted with him, felt themselves in the presence of a saint the moment they came in contact with him."

PART I.

How to Pray to St. Antony.

1. The manifold miracles springing up everywhere as though by charm at the invocation of St. Antony must fill the hearts of his clients with confidence. Next to the Blessed Virgin, our Saint seems to have an unlimited influence with God, not only for the recovery of lost objects, but in all cases which are submitted to him. The uni-

versality of this prerogative has been recognized by the Sovereign Pontiff himself. He is therefore invoked in every need and affliction, but especially: 1. For the restoration of lost things; 2. For the recovery of health; 3. For the happy issue of an undertaking; 4. To obtain employment; 5. To obtain or preserve purity of heart; 6. In the choice of a vocation.

2. The essential requisite, therefore, in imploring the aid of St. Antony, is a lively faith and an unbounded confidence in his powerful intercession. But this confidence must not assume the character of superstition—it must be tempered by the spirit of Christian resignation. It is certainly lawful to submit to St. Antony all our wishes, both spiritual and temporal; but it must be done with a childlike resignation to the decrees of divine Providence. Though

St. Antony's intercession be great and powerful, God will not grant our requests unless they be conducive to the welfare of our souls. Afflictions and adversities will never entirely be banished from this vale of tears. God often wishes us to carry a certain cross, and will not take it from us, for reasons best known to Him. But if our prayers are not heard in one particular instance, they are not lost, for we may rest assured that God will give us other and more precious graces, instead of those for which we have asked. We must not, therefore, lose courage, if we are not heard at once. Knock repeatedly at the gates of heaven, as you would at the house of a friend. Perseverance will insure success in the majority of cases.

3. When imploring a grace through St. Antony we must be careful that our hearts be free from mortal sin. There-

fore Novenas should always begin with a good confession, and fervent holy Communion, that our prayers may rise from a pure heart like sweet incense before the throne of God. A great many overlook this important item. They come to St. Antony as enemies of God, their hands full of injustice, their hearts full of impurity. How is it possible for him to plead their cause?

4. If we wish to be heard in an important affair, we must pray to St. Antony with instance; visit one of his shrines or statues every day during the novena; receive the Sacraments; practise some mortification, and if possible, have a Holy Mass said in his honor, or give an alms for his cherished poor.

5. Join the Pious Union of St. Antony and thus become his permanent client.

The Pious Union of St. Antony.

This Pious Association in honor of St. Antony was canonically erected in St. Antony's Church, Rome, February 13, 1894. By a decree of August 31, 1897, the National Centre for the United States was established at the Commissariat of the Holy Land, Mount St. Sepulchre, Washington, D. C.

OBJECT.

1. To thank God for the miraculous power granted to St. Antony.

2. To implore his powerful intercession.— 3. To propagate his devotion.— 4. To assist the poor.

OBLIGATIONS.

1. Say daily, three times, Glory be to the Father, etc.—2. Recite daily the Miraculous Responsory to St. Antony, or, if you do not know it by heart, once the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory.—3. Give an alms for the poor whenever you have obtained a favor through St. Antony.—4. Receive the Sacraments on the feast of St. Antony (June 13), or within the Octave.

ADVANTAGES.

1. A plenary Indulgence on the day of admission, or the Sunday following.—2. On the feast of St. Antony (June 13).—3. On the feast of the Translation of his Relics (February 15).—4. On thirteen succeeding Tuesdays, any time in the year, when receiving on those days the Sacraments and praying for the intention of the Holy Father.—5. At the hour of death.—6. Seven years and quadragenes on every day of the Novena preceding the feast of St. Antony.—7. One hundred days indulgence when saying the three Glorys.—8. One hundred days when praying for the object of the Union.—9. Participation in a Holy Mass said every

Tuesday in Rome and at the Commissariat of the Holy Land.—10. A share in all the good works performed by the members of the three Orders of St. Francis.

THE THREE DEGREES OF THE PIOUS UNION.

First Degree: The members conscientiously perform the prayers and other obligations of the Pious Union. (See page 13.)

Second Degree: 1. The members practise the obligations of the first degree.—2. They promote the interests of the Pious Union by spreading the devotion to St. Antony and enrolling members in the Pious Union.—3. They venerate St. Antony especially on every Tuesday, and if possible, visit one of his shrines or statues on that day.

Third Degree: The members practise the good works enjoined by the two foregoing degrees.—2. They make the thirteen Tuesdays, at least once a year, for their own spiritual and temporal needs and for all intentions recommended to St. Antony.—3. They give a monthly or yearly offering toward St. Antony's Bread.

of the Pious Union are offered and requested:

1. For the clients of St. Antony.—2. For the recovery of things lost or stolen.—3. For those who are unemployed that they may obtain work.—4. For the sick and distressed.—5. For all intentions recommended to St. Antony.—6. For the souls in Purgatory dear to St. Antony.

NOTES.

1. No charges are connected with admission to the Pious Union, but members are requested to contribute five cents for certificate, registration and postage.

2. The livery of a member of the Pious Union consists of a scapular and cord of St. Antony, which can be obtained at St. Antony's Department. (See page 64.)

3. Persons wishing to enter the Pious Union should state the degree in which they wish to be enrolled.

4. Deceased persons cannot be enrolled in the Pious Union, but offerings can be made in their behalf.

5. Children can be consecrated to St. Antony. (See page 17.)

6. Boys and young men form a special branch of the Pious Union under the name of St. Antony's Militia. (See page 18.)

7. The rules of the Pious Union are not binding under pain of sin. Members, however, who do not recite the prayers, have no part in the spiritual advantages of the Union.

8. Offerings received for St. Antony's Bread will be used toward the education of poor students.

Address all communications to :

ST. ANTONY'S DEPARTMENT,
Mount St. Sepulchre,
Washington, D. C.

The Paduan Masses.

St. Antony was very devoted to the souls in Purgatory. He frequently offered the Holy Sacrifice for the deceased inhabitants of Padua, the city he loved so dearly. Hence it became customary to have Masses said for his beloved clients in Purgatory, whom he wishes to free from the pains of fire. Any assistance tendered to his helpless friends will dispose his tender soul to mercy and prompt him to intercede strongly in behalf of those who thus benefit his deceased clients, by their prayers and the offering of the Holy Sacrifice.

Consecration of Children to St. Antony.

St. Antony, who was favored by the apparition of the Infant Jesus, had a great love for children. At the instance of their mothers he saved them from sickness and death, and shortly after his canonization, he restored five of them to life.

We, therefore, exhort all Christian mothers to look to this protector of their darlings and to place them into his arms, where the divine Infant rested.

To this effect the mothers will send us a written request giving their address, full name of their child and also the day on

which they desire to have it consecrated to St. Antony. The little one will then be placed under the protection of the Saint and receive a certificate of its consecration.

The children shall wear the cord of St. Antony and the mothers will recite for them the prayers of the Pious Union, giving an alms to the poor in their behalf.

Children of both sexes can be consecrated to St. Antony. Teachers and nurses are requested to promote this devotion.

Address : St. Antony's Department.

St. Antony's Militia.

St. Antony with the lily in his hand and the Infant Jesus on his arm has always been a model of purity for young souls and he has shown his predilection in their behalf in various cases, freeing them from temptations against the holy virtue. Therefore, a special branch of the Pious Union has been established for boys and young men under his patronage.

It is called Militia, that is warfare, because with the aid and under the protection of St.

Antony, its members are called to become apostles of Christ among their companions to fight the demon of impurity and to form among themselves a league of prayer.

The chief features of the Militia are: Simplicity of mind, purity of heart, the spirit of the apostolate and a fervent devotion to the Blessed Virgin. The Militants gain the same indulgences as members of the Pious Union. (See p. 13.)

Prayers—The Militants shall recite daily the following prayers: 1. *The Miraculous Responsory to St. Antony*, or one *Our Father*, *Hail Mary* and *Glory* instead, if they do not know it by heart.—2. *Three times the Glory*, in honor of the most Holy Trinity.—3. They may add *the Little Chaplet of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin*. (See p. 21.)

Rules.—The Militants are advised to observe the following rules: 1. Go to Confession and receive Holy Communion monthly.—2. Make it a point to go to Confession as soon as possible, whenever you have the misfortune to commit a mortal sin.—3. Make a daily examination of conscience, especially with regard to the holy virtue.—4. Every

day make an act of mortification, no matter how small, in order to gain strength to resist all temptations and to atone for your past sins.—5. When assailed by a temptation, recite the Blessing of St. Antony. (See p. 40.) —6. Whenever you hear any improper language atone for it by saying devoutly *Glory.* —7. Cultivate the spirit of simplicity by avoiding all pride, boasting and quarreling, and by practising kindness to others—in imitation of St. Antony.—8. Work for the conversion of other boys and young men. —9. If possible pay a short visit to the Blessed Sacrament every day.—10. Daily practise an act of kindness in honor of the Blessed Virgin.—11. In honor of St. Antony give an alms according to your means for the poor students, whenever you obtain a grace through his intercession.—12. Once a year make a retreat, according to the advice of your spiritual director.

We exhort all boys and young men who love the holy virtue to join the Militia and spread it among their companions.

The Little Chaplet of the Immaculate Conception.

It consists of three sets of one large and four small beads each, in honor of the twelve glories of the Blessed Virgin, and is recited as follows:

In the name of the Father, etc.

First set: Blessed be the Holy and Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary! One "Our Father," four "Hail Marys" and "Glory."

Second set: Blessed, etc. "Our Father," four "Hail Marys" and "Glory."

Third set: Blessed, etc. "Our Father," four "Hail Marys" and "Glory."

(Three hundred days indulgence every time—a plenary indulgence once a month.)

Order of Reception into St. Antony's Militia.

1. Veni Creator. 2. Short Exhortation. 3. Act of Consecration. 4. Singing of the Responsory and of the three Glorys. 5. Recitation of the Little Chaplet. 6. Litany of St. Antony. 7. Blessing of St. Antony.

St. Antony's Bread.

THE recent growth in devotion to St. Antony has become so marked as to call forth expressions of astonishment throughout the Catholic world. It has taken the form of a new charity known as "St. Antony's Bread."

All any person, who desires to participate in this charity, has to do is to write his or her request on a piece of paper, adding a promise that if, by the expiration of a given time, St. Antony

should secure its fulfilment, a certain sum of money will be donated to buy bread for the poor. Among the latter may justly be numbered the poor students, who, like St. Antony, aspire to the priesthood. Those who contribute towards their support in this manner perform at once an act of charity as well as an act of devotion. Such persons should write their requests on a slip of paper and send the same to *St. Antony's Department, Mount St. Sepulchre, Washington, D. C.* These written requests will be deposited at the Statue of St. Antony, to whom special prayers are said weekly for the benefactors of the students and their intentions. It will be well to accompany such requests with a Novena of nine days or nine Tuesdays to the Saint.

Tuesday the Day of St. Antony.

St. Antony died on Friday, June 13, 1231; but in order to satisfy the devotion of the people who flocked in great numbers to behold for the last time the heavenly beauty of his countenance, his funeral was deferred until the following Tuesday, June 17. The miracles which St. Antony wrought on this day of blessed memory were so numerous and remarkable that the love and gratitude of the faithful con-

secrated this day to St. Antony, and the belief became popular that any petition asked through his intercession on that day would be granted.

St. Antony himself manifested how pleasing this devotion is to him. In the year 1617 he appeared to a pious lady of Bologna who had besought his intercession in a very important matter, and said to her: "Visit my picture in the Church of St. Francis for nine consecutive Tuesdays and your prayer shall be heard." The lady followed his directions and obtained the desired favor.

This devotion in a short time became general throughout Italy and other countries. But the faith of the people extended the nine Tuesdays to thirteen, in memory of his death, which occurred on the 13th day of June. The Church sanctioned this pious practice by granting the following graces:

1 A plenary indulgence on every Tuesday of the year to all those who receive the sacraments and on that day visit a Franciscan church where the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, praying for the intention of the Holy Father.

2. A plenary indulgence once a year on thirteen consecutive Tuesdays to all the members of the Pious Union of St. Antony, who, on those Tuesdays, receive the Sacraments, and, being truly penitent, visit some church or public oratory, and there pray for the intention of the Holy Father.

3. A plenary indulgence to all the faithful who visit a Franciscan church on one of the nine Tuesdays immediately preceding the feast of the Saint (June 13).

4. An indulgence of 7 years and 7 quarantines on any Tuesday of the year when visiting a Franciscan church.

The Miraculous Responsory of St. Antony.

One of the most efficacious prayers to St. Antony is the Responsory. It was composed by St. Bonaventure who, filled with admiration for the great Saint, condensed in a few words the countless graces which St. Antony grants to his pious clients.

This pious hymn has been chanted from time immemorial at the tomb of the Saint in Padua, and is frequently

recited by the Fathers at the express desire of some pious pilgrim for a particular intention.

It is well to recite it in every necessity, and especially in order to recover some object lost or stolen.

The Church has granted an indulgence of 100 days for each recitation of the Responsory, and a plenary indulgence once a month.

The Chaplet of St. Antony.

It is a pious practice to honor St. Antony by the recitation of this chaplet in honor of the thirteen miracles contained in the Responsory. This chaplet consists of thirteen *Our Fathers*, *Hail Marys* and *Glorias* and the Responsory, 39 beads arranged in 13 groups of 3 beads each. On the first bead of every group say the *Our Father*,

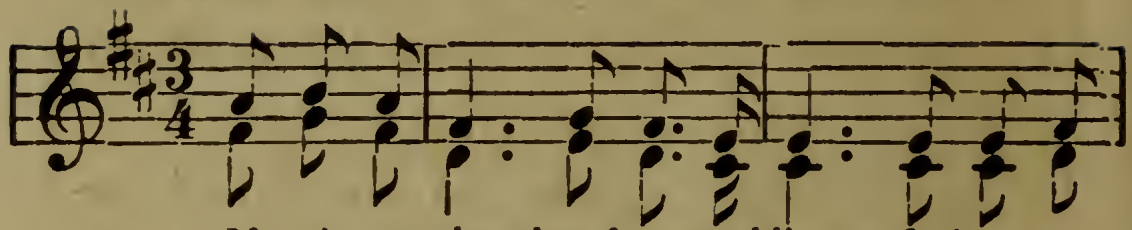
on the second the *Hail Mary* and on the third the *Glory be to the Father.* At the end the miraculous Responsory is recited on the medal.

The Chaplet needs no special blessing and can be recited on the fingers. It has been enriched with the following indulgences : 100 days once a day for the 13 *Our Fathers*, etc., and 100 days each time for the Responsory.

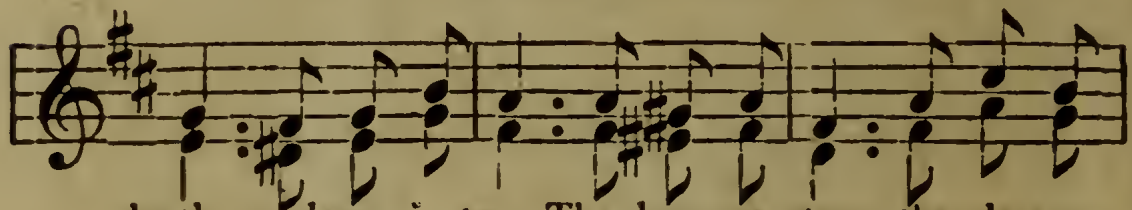
The Scapular of St. Antony.

This livery of St. Antony is made of gray wool and bears the image of the Saint with the Infant Jesus in his arms. Surrounding the picture is the blessing of St. Antony. The reverse of the scapular shows a representation of the reliquary containing the Sacred Tongue with the words which St. Bonaventure addressed to it on the occasion of the translation of the relics of the wonder-worker.

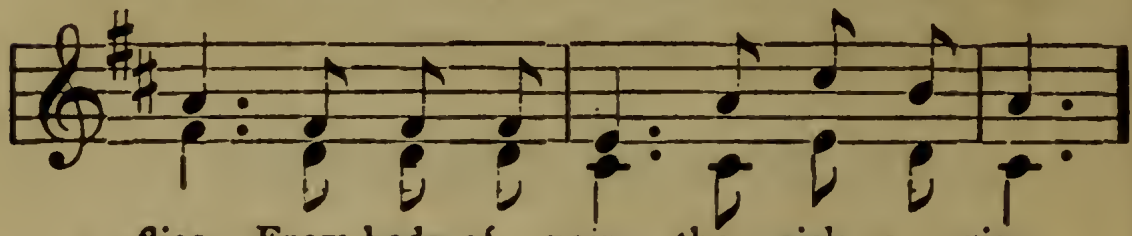
THE MIRACULOUS RESPONSORY.



If mir - a - cles thou fain would'st see: Lo! er - ror,

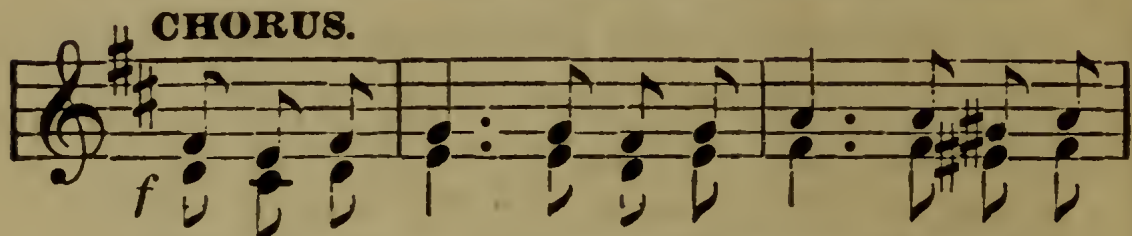


death, ca - lam - i - ty, The leprous stain, the de - mon

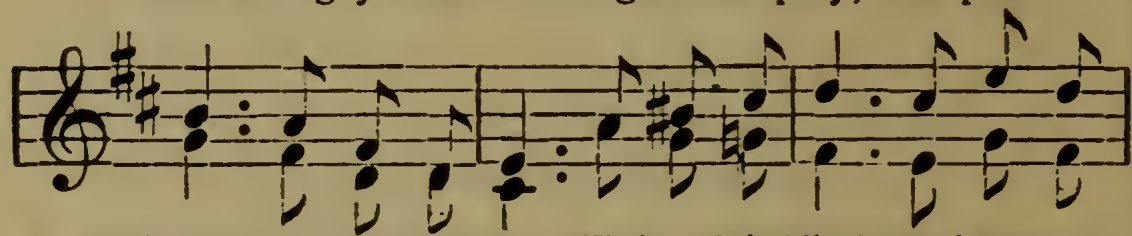


flies, From beds of pain the sick a - rise.

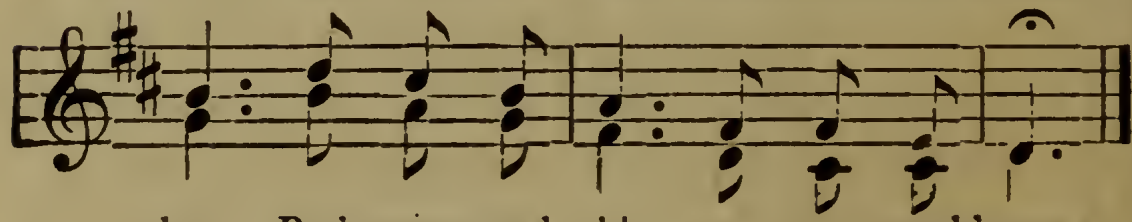
CHORUS.



The hun - gry seas fore - go their prey, The pris - o-



ner's cruel chains give way; While palsied limbs and treasures



lost Both young and old re - cov - ered boast.

PART II.

The Miraculous Responsory of St. Antony of Padua.

If miracles thou fain would'st see :
Lo ! error, death, calamity,
The leprous stain, the demon flies,
From beds of pain the sick arise.

The hungry seas forego their prey,
The prisoner's cruel chains give way :
While palsied limbs and treasures lost
Both young and old recovered boast.

And perils perish, plenty's hoard
Is heaped on hunger's famished board:
Let those relate, who know it well,
Let Padua of her Patron tell.
The hungry seas, etc.

To Father, Son, may glory be,
And Holy Ghost, eternally.
The hungry seas, etc.

Pray for us, St. Antony.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let Us Pray.

O God! Let the votive commemoration of Blessed Antony, Thy Confessor, be a source of joy to Thy Church, that she may always be fortified with spiritual assistance, and may deserve to possess eternal joy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

100 days indulgence every time.

An Act of Consecration to St. Antony.

O glorious St. Antony, servant and friend of God, I salute thee through the most loving Heart of our Divine Savior Jesus Christ, whom thou didst bear in thy pure arms under the form of a child. I choose thee to-day as my patron, advocate and father, I place all my cares and temptations in thy hands. I earnestly resolve never to forsake thee.

Great Saint, lily of celestial purity, and vanquisher of concupiscence, obtain for me and all thy other clients perfect purity of body and soul.

I also, in imitation of thy zeal, promise to lead others to the knowledge, the love and the service of God through my own example and counsel.

Litany of St. Antony.

LORD, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.
Holy Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us.
St. Antony of Padua, pray for us.

St. Antony, glory of Friars Minor,
St. Antony, lily of virginity,
St. Antony, gem of poverty,
St. Antony, example of obedience,
St. Antony, mirror of abstinence,
St. Antony, vessel of purity,
St. Antony, star of sanctity,
St. Antony, model of conduct,
St. Antony, beauty of paradise,
St. Antony, ark of the testament,
St. Antony, keeper of the Scriptures,
St. Antony, teacher of the truth,
St. Antony, preacher of grace,
St. Antony, exterminator of vices,
St. Antony, planter of virtues,
St. Antony, conqueror of heretics,
St. Antony, terror of infidels,
St. Antony, consoler of the afflicted,
St. Antony, searcher of consciences,
St. Antony, martyr in desire,
St. Antony, terror of the devils,
St. Antony, horror of hell,
St. Antony, performer of miracles,
St. Antony, finder of lost things,
St. Antony, helper of all who invoke thee,

Pray for us.

Be merciful, spare us, O Lord!
Be merciful, hear us, O Lord!

From all evil,
From all sin,
From the snares of the devil,
From pestilence, famine and war,
From eternal death,
Through the merits of St. Antony,
Through his ardent charity,
Through his zealous preaching,
Through his desire of martyrdom,
Through his strict observance of obedience, poverty and chastity,
On the day of judgment,

Deliver us, O Lord!

We sinners, beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou vouchsafe to lead us to true penitence,
That Thou vouchsafe to inflame us with divine love,
That Thou vouchsafe to let us ever enjoy the protection of St. Antony,
That Thou vouchsafe to give us, by the merits of St. Antony, the gift of true contrition, humility and contemplation,
That Thou vouchsafe us the grace, through the intercession of St. Antony, to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil,

We beseech Thee, hear us.

That Thou vouchsafe the assistance of St. Antony to all who invoke him in their necessities, we beseech Thee, hear us.
That Thou vouchsafe graciously to hear us.
Son of God, we beseech Thee, hear us.
Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.

V. Pray for us, O blessed Antony.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, Who didst glorify Thy faithful confessor Antony with the perpetual gift of working miracles, graciously grant that what we confidently seek through his merits we may surely receive through his intercession. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to the Blessed Tongue of St. Antony.

O blessed Tongue! that always blessed the Lord, and made others bless and praise Him; it is now manifest what great merits thou dost possess in the sight of God.

Pray for us, St. Antony,

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

O Almighty God, who alone dost perform miracles, grant, we beseech thee, that, as thou didst preserve the tongue of thy holy Confessor, St. Antony, incorrupt after death, we, through his intercession and after his example, may be worthy of praising and blessing Thee forever. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Antony's Favorite Hymn to the Blessed Virgin.

O Glorious Virgin, ever blest,
All daughters of mankind above,
Who gavest nurture from thy breast
To God with pure maternal love :

What we have lost through sinful Eve,
The blossom sprung from Thee restores,
And granting bliss to souls that grieve,
Unbars the everlasting doors.

O gate through which has passed the King !
O hall whence light shone through the gloom !
The ransomed nations praise and sing
The Offspring of the virgin womb !

Praise from mankind and heaven's host,
To Jesus of a virgin sprung;
To Father and to Holy Ghost,
Be equal glory, ever sung. Amen.

Anthem to St. Antony.

O Hispania's progeny,
Fear of all the faithless host,
Light newborn of Italy,
Buried treasure, matchless boast
Of the Paduan city :
Antony, with patron power,
Jesus' grace for us obtain,
Lest the briefly granted hour
To the fallen, flow in vain,
Time of heavenly pity.

Blessing of St. Antony.

Behold the cross † of the Lord ! Fly, ye evil powers ! † The lion of the tribe of Juda † the root of David has conquered ! Alleluia ! Alleluia !

Prayer to the Infant Jesus in the Arms of St. Antony.

O sweet Infant Jesus, Thou best and only hope of afflicted souls, I prostrate myself at Thy feet and beseech Thee, through Thy immeasurable love and grace, whereby Thou didst visit Thy blessed servant St. Antony, and comfort and embrace him, to come to me at his intercession and let me taste how sweet Thy presence is to the souls that trust in Thee.

Prayer to St. Antony for the Restoration of Things Lost or Stolen.

O blessed St. Antony! The grace of God has made thee a powerful advocate in all necessities, and the patron for the restoration of things lost or stolen: to thee I turn to-day with childlike love and heartfelt confidence. Oh, how many thousands hast thou miraculously aided in the recovery of lost goods! Thou wast the counselor of the erring, the comforter of the afflicted, the healer of the sick, the raiser of the dead, the deliverer of the captive, the refuge of the afflicted: to thee do I hasten, O Blessed St. Antony! Help me in my present affliction. I recommend what I have lost to thy care, in the secure hope that thou wilt restore it to me if it be to the greater glory of God and to the spiritual benefit of my soul, that I may praise and thank thee, in time and

eternity, for thy glorious intercession in my behalf. Amen.

Prayer to Obtain the Grace of Holy Purity.

O purest St. Antony, who through thy angelic virtue hast been made worthy to be caressed by Jesus, to hold Him in thy arms and press Him to thy heart, I entreat thee to cast a benevolent glance upon me, a poor sinner. By the mere touch of thy garment thou hast communicated that most precious of all gifts, holy purity. Oh, deliver me by thy powerful intercession from all thoughts and actions against the holy virtue, that I may become a pleasing object in the eyes of Jesus and His Immaculate Mother.

Pray for me that my heart and soul may remain pure and undefiled until death, and that I may rather die than offend God by mortal sin. Amen.

Prayer for the Happy Choice of a State in Life.

O Blessed St. Antony, thou wast especially enlightened by God to know the station in life wherein thou didst attain such a high degree of holiness; graciously obtain for me, I beseech thee, the grace from God that I may know and be able to embrace in spite of all obstacles the station in life to which I am called and in which I may the more easily attain eternal salvation. Amen.

Prayer to St. Antony.

Composed by Cardinal Parocchi for those who practise the charity of St. Antony's Bread.

GLORIOUS Wonder-worker, Father of the Poor, who in a miraculous manner didst disclose a miser's heart buried in his gold, because thou hast received a heart devoted to the

consolation of the needy, and who, when offering our prayers to the Lord, obtainest their gracious hearing, accept as a token of gratitude the alms which we place before thee in aid of the poor. Grant that they may prove to the advantage of the suffering and to our own benefit. In thy wonted benevolence assist us both in our temporal necessities, but especially in our spiritual wants, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

100 days' Indulgence once a day.

Prayer in Need and Affliction.

O dear St. Antony, father of the poor and afflicted, a poor sinner, I seek thy help and counsel and fly to thy care and protection. Have mercy on me, St. Antony, Oh, have mercy on me, for the hand of the Lord has touched

me, and divine justice has visited me for my sins. O loving patron, behold my miserable condition and the bitter anguish of my heart. Intercede for me with my loving Savior that this bitter chalice may pass from me. Yet not my will, but His, be done in thy poor servant. Amen.

Prayer for a Happy Death.

O glorious St. Antony, invincible conqueror of death, who didst restore so many to life, protect me from a sudden and unprovided death and my soul from mortal sin, in order that I may always love God and remain in his holy grace. Amen.

Prayer for the Deceased.

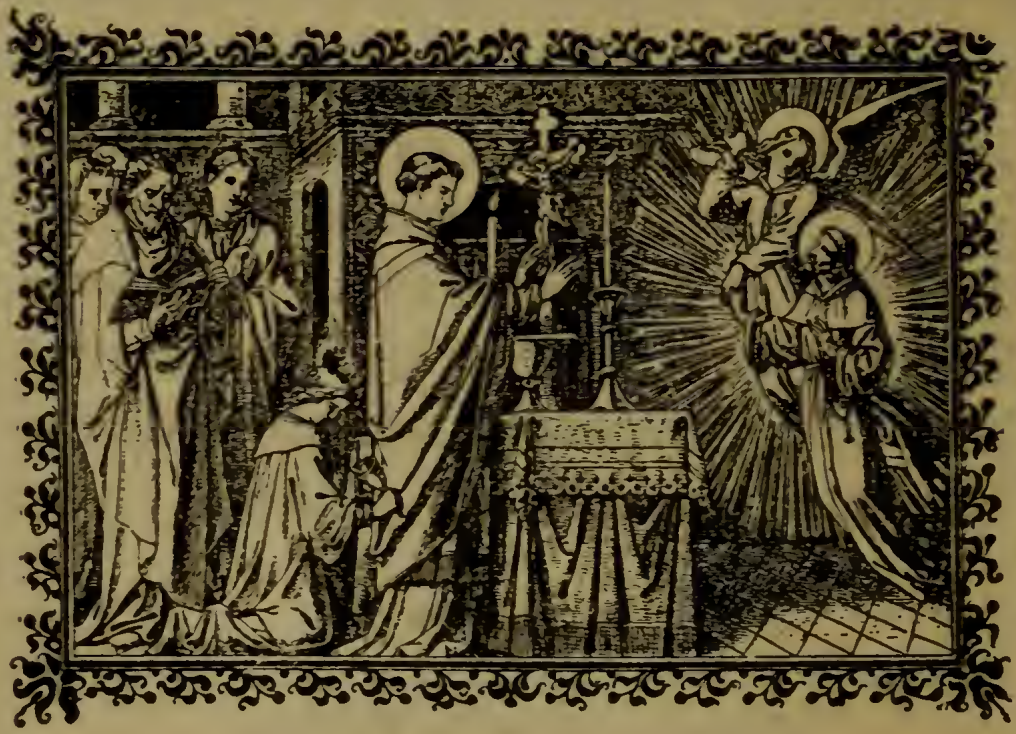
Have compassion, dear St. Antony,

upon the faithful departed, particularly upon the souls of my deceased parents, relatives, friends, and benefactors who are detained in the flames of Purgatory. Pray for them that they may be speedily admitted to the blissful vision of God. Amen.

The Crusader's Prayer.

(To be said at morning, noon and night.)

Divine Eternal Father ! I offer Thee the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, in reparation for my sins ; for the wants of Holy Church ; for the wants of the Holy Land ; for the conversion of the poor sinners and for the release of the suffering souls in Purgatory.



PART III.

Novena to St. Antony

GRANT, O Lord, that the grace of the Holy Spirit may enlighten our souls and inflame our hearts that while prostrate at the feet of Thy infinite Majesty we may worthily meditate on the virtues of Thy servant St. Antony.

First Day.

CONSIDERATION.—*Promptitude of St. Antony in corresponding to divine grace.* Let us consider how the saint called by God to the order of the Augustinian Canons hastened to renounce the honors to which his illustrious birth entitled him and the riches which by right belonged to him. He promptly obeyed the divine will and offered to God the first-fruits of his soul, so well cultivated by his mother and at a very early age received the religious habit.

Let us consider the great debt which we contracted with God by Baptism. And let us resolve to fulfil the promises which we made at that moment through our god-parents. Let us despise the vanity of the things of the world and respond without hesitation to the call of divine grace.

PRAYER.

O God, grant us, through the merits of St. Antony, the grace to despise the goods of this world, to follow Thee in the way of humiliations and to detach our hearts from everything which could prevent obeying Thy holy inspirations to the end that we may attach ourselves to Thee who art the sole source of truth and eternal felicity.

Say the *Responsory* once and the *Pater*, *Ave*, *Gloria*, 13 times.

Practice—Make three *acts of faith* daily until next Tuesday in union with St. Antony that your heart may not be closed to the call of divine grace.

NOTE—The exercises are the same for each day of the Novena, except the consideration and the particular prayer which is adapted to it.

Second Day.

CONSIDERATION. — *Love of St. Antony for Suffering.*—Let us con-

sider how the saint at the sight of the glorious relics of the five Franciscans martyred in Morocco, and impelled by a desire to shed his blood for Jesus Christ and to attain a greater degree of perfection, entered the Franciscan Order and left for Africa to seek a martyr's crown but how, prevented by sickness, he could not attain the object of his desire. He sought to make up by fasting and thus became a martyr of penance.

Let us consider that if we are not called to suffer martyrdom for the faith we ought at least to restrain our passions and sensuality by placing far from us everything which might cause us to offend God.

PRAYER.

O Jesus my Savior, how great a distance are we removed from thy faith-

ful servant. He in his love for Thee yearned to shed his blood for Thy glory. And we do not know how even to sacrifice our sinful desires and mortify our irregular appetites. Grant us, O Lord, by the intercession of St. Antony the grace to realize our deplorable state, to abandon the paths of sin and to become true Christians and penitents upon earth, so that we may be of the number of the elect for all eternity.

Practice—Practice daily until next Tuesday three *acts of mortification* by depriving yourself of some little pleasure or luxury in union with St. Antony to obtain the grace of subduing our passion.

Third Day.

CONSIDERATION. — *The humility of St. Antony.*—Let us consider how St. Antony, although endowed with profound learning and deeply versed in

the most sublime sciences, always sought to hide his erudition and other accomplishments so as to escape the praise of men, and loved to pass for an ignorant and imperfect man.

We ought as far as possible to hide the qualities of our soul from the eyes of earthly creatures, and if we are obliged to make them known let us try at least not to yield to vanity.

PRAYER.

O amiable Jesus, when can we merit to be the object of Thy pleasure, we who allow ourselves to be dominated by the spirit of ambition and vanity ; who seek to be applauded for the least good we do, without reflecting that whatever we possess is ours only by Thy liberality. By the love of St. Antony drive from our hearts every germ of vanity so that we may realize

our own nothingness, and thus merit thy mercy.

Practice—Meditate for five minutes daily until next Tuesday, in union with St. Antony, upon your many sins and your helplessness, to obtain the grace of humility.

Fourth Day.

CONSIDERATION. — *The patience of St. Antony.*—Let us consider how our Saint, maltreated by the heretics in many parts of Italy, loaded with injuries by his enemies, nevertheless preserved in the midst of these outrages an invincible patience, and, following the example of the Savior, prayed God without ceasing to convert the first, and to pardon the second.

Let us resolve, in imitation of St. Antony, to support with patience such injuries as may befall us in the future, and to pray for those who do us harm.

PRAYER.

O gentle Jesus, who by word and example hast taught us the virtue of patience and of pardoning injuries, take pity on us who are unable to support even the least offence, and suffer us not to be dominated by a desire for revenge. By the love of St. Antony, grant us the grace to receive every humiliation in expiation of our offences, so that having thus satisfied Thy justice and pardoned our brothers, we also may merit the pardon of our sins.

Practice—Say the *Our Father* three times daily, until next Tuesday, for all those who have injured you in the past.

Fifth Day.

CONSIDERATION.—*Love of St. Antony for God.*—Let us consider the Saint so full of love for his Creator, and without a single thought which might

direct him from God. His heart was so detached from the things of the world, that he could not find pleasure in anything which did not come from God, or which did not belong to Him.

Let us desire, in imitation of St. Antony, to love God above all things, so that all our thoughts may be constantly directed towards heaven.

PRAYER.

O gentle Savior, Thou alone art worthy of all the affections of our hearts; and yet, alas! we serve Thee with only a divided love, in order to love creatures. It was for Thee that we were created. Grant then, O Lord, that after the example of our Saint we may burn with love for Thee; that our only happiness here below may be to serve Thee and live for Thee who alone art worthy to possess our hearts.

Practice—Say three *Our Fathers* and *Hail Marys* daily until next Tuesday, in honor of the Sacred Heart in union with St. Antony, to obtain the grace of a more perfect love of God.

Sixth Day.

CONSIDERATION.—*The poverty of St. Antony.*—Let us consider how our Saint, impelled by love of evangelical poverty, abandoned his rich inheritance, despised earthly goods, refused with a holy indignation the magnificent presents which Ezzelino sent him, by driving from his presence the messengers of that tyrant, saying: "Go tell your master that I shall not share with him the spoils of the poor."

In view of this disinterestedness, let us take the firm resolution to detach ourselves from riches, which are the source of so many evils, and if we possess them, let us resolve that our hearts will not be attached to them; that

if we are poor, we may not desire to become rich, because at the hour of death we will have to leave all things behind.

PRAYER.

O amiable Jesus, source of all real good, who became man and vouchsafed to embrace poverty to teach us to despise the things of the world, grant us, by the love of St. Antony, the grace to be his imitators in detachment from everything which can estrange us from Thee, and to despise earthly riches, in order to merit the possession of the riches of heaven for all eternity.

Practice—Practice an *act of kindness* towards the poor daily until next Tuesday, or give an alms for their relief in honor of the poverty of St. Antony, to obtain the spirit of detachment.

Seventh Day.

CONSIDERATION.—*St. Antony's hatred of sin.*—Our Saint desired so

ardently to preserve his innocence that he was able to remain free from mortal sin. He was moreover indefatigable in his sermons in exhorting sinners to abandon the occasions of vice. Let us resolve for the future to have an implacable hatred of mortal sin, never to commit it and to aid our neighbor to avoid it by our good example and our charitable conduct.

PRAYER.

O my beloved Jesus, who triumphed over sin by dying on the cross, grant us, by Thy love of our Saint which enabled him to triumph over the evil one and to deliver the souls of so many who were his victims, the grace that he may aid us also to vanquish the enemies of our soul. Grant that we may take a firm resolution to detest sin and to destroy it within us, so that Thy precious blood may not be shed in vain,

but may deliver us from the slavery of Satan.

Practice—Make three *acts of contrition* daily until next Tuesday in order to obtain the grace of exemption from mortal sin.

Eighth Day.

CONSIDERATION.—*The chastity of St. Antony.*—Let us consider the vigilance which our Saint kept over his senses, and how he permitted nothing to tarnish the purity of his soul or to wound that supreme virtue which elevates man and renders him, so to speak, equal to the angels.

Let us resolve to keep a strict surveillance over our senses, which are the cause of the greatest part of our faults. Let us take the resolution to guard with a holy jealousy, according to our state, the precious treasure of purity.

PRAYER.

O merciful Jesus, we confess at Thy feet that the too great liberty we have allowed our senses has rendered us guilty of many faults. Have pity on us, O Lord, and grant us, through the merits of St. Antony, the grace to be more watchful in the future, and never to yield to the temptations of the devil.

Practice—Say three *Hail Marys* every morning and evening until next Tuesday, to obtain the grace of preserving holy purity.

Ninth Day.

CONSIDERATION.—*The happy death of St. Antony.*—Consider the Saint, arrived at the end of his earthly career, full of merit and adorned with the most heroic virtues. Assisted by the Immaculate Virgin, he rendered his soul to God, and went to receive from Him the eternal reward of his labors. We should remember that if we wish to